# ANSWER

To a BOOK, entitled, The

# HISTORY

OF

# *RUPTURES,*

AND

# Rupture-Curers,

WROTE

By *Robert Houſtoun.*

WITH

Some Obſervations concerning Dr. LITTLEJOHN's pretending to Sell my Receipt as his Own.

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By KATHERINE BOLES.

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*LONDON:*
Printed in the Year 1726.

TO

# Sir *Hans Sloane*,

## Preſident of the Col-lege of Phyſicians.



Having met with a Book ſome few Weeks ago wrote by Dr. *Houſtoun*, where-

in he has taken an undue Liberty with my Husband's Character: as alſo undertakes to give an Account of Ruptures; and finding upon peruſal of the Book, that he not only commits very great Miſtakes as to my Husband's Caſe, but alſo concerning Ruptures; I therefore thought fit here humbly to offer my Service with

with all due Deference and Reſpect, to the many excellent Performances of this Kind, which we have already, done by far better Hands than mine; in which Undertaking my Care has been to be as clear and particular as I could, with an Eye to the Benefit of the plain and unlearn'd Reader, and have ſuited Things as far as their

Nature

Nature would bear, and my Skill would reach to the moſt ordinary Capacities; and whatever the Succeſs may be, I hope, I ſhall receive the Reward of an honeſt Endeavour from him, who eſtimates our Pains not by their Events, which are not in our Power, but by their natural Tenderneſs, and our ſincere Intentions; I there-

therefore humbly recommend it, and ſhall think my Time well beſtow'd if this ſmall Treatiſe find Acceptance with a Gentleman of ſuch bright Parts, ſolid Senſe, ſound Judgment, and quick Apprehenſion, as Sir *Hans* is, who takes Delight to do Acts of Charity, Generoſity, and Goodneſs, to all People that have need: So wiſh-

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ing all Health and Happineſs, long Life in this World, and a Reward in the next, with due Reſpects, I ſubſcribe myſelf,

*Katherine Boles.*

THE

# PREFACE.

*IT is with Reluctancy that I expose my weak Capacity to the View of the World by appearing in Print; but meeting with a Book the other Day, wherein was set forth a very scurrilous Letter wrote from* Paris, *to the Author of that Book, as he pretends, and his Answer to the said Letter, wherein he gives himself a very large Latitude in making free with my Husband's Character, which he does in so vile a manner, that were he only a Person whom I had*

but a bare Acquaintance with, could not help resenting, and a him all the Justice I could: Bu as 'tis my Husband whom he N vilifies, the World will thin very indifferently of me to pas by so vile an Affront, given fo no other Cause than what I sha take notice of in the followin Treatise. He also takes upo him to take my Receipt to Pieces to describe the Uses of it, and th ready Cures of all sorts of Rup tures from several Authors; bu methinks it would have been much more to the Doctor's Re- putation, if he had given the Pub- lick a little of his own Experi- ence, than to spend his Time in writing other Men's Works, which we have already seen; I say, by the

*the Evidence of his Experiments, we must have believed him to have the Concern for Truth he pretends to, and should not have found him (a Person who pretends to be so much for Truth) guilty of writing so many grand Mistakes as he has done, to my certain Knowledge. In my Opinion such Actions makes either Man or Woman look very little, much more a Person of Education, Learning, and such bright Parts, as the Doctor would have the World believe he is. 'Tis not my Design to swell up a large Volume in describing his Character, or quoting abundance of Authors, but shall endeavour to give a short Description of the different Ruptures, with their Causes, and the best, readiest, and*

*safest way of curing such, as i*
*my weak Judgment, are cura*
*ble; as also to let the World se*
*they are not so much imposed o*
*by Quacks in this Art, as th*
*Doctor would insinuate. I sha*
*do it in as plain a Manner as m*
*Capacity will allow, I being no*
*qualified by Education to writ*
*Books; neither do I pretend t*
*have a Head, or natural Parts*
*for such a Piece of work, but am*
*forced to it in my own Defence*
*therefore hope the judicious Rea*
*der will be favourable, and pas*
*by the Faults of this small Trea*
*tise, under the Consideration, tha*
*it is like the Widow's Mite cas*
*into the Treasury; so shall pro-*
*ceed and go on in the following*
*Treatise.*

Katherine Boles.

# *An Answer to the Calumnious Aspersions laid on* Richard Boles *by* Robert Houstoun, *in a Book, entitled,* The History of Ruptures, and Rupture-Curers.

BEING some Time ago conversing with a Person concerning my Practice of curing Ruptures, who told me he had met with a Book wrote by Doctor *Houstoun* concerning my Husband, I began to think what Subject he could find

to write about, that concerned my Husband; and happening to meet with the Book in ſome Time after. I no ſooner open'd it, but I found the Subject; which very much ſurprized me at firſt; but when I conſidered the Character of the Perſon, and his Temper, beſides a noiſy Rattling Way he gives himſelf, in making free with Gentlemen's Characters, who for bright Senſe, Learning, and Education, he is not fit to hold a Candle to, nor converſe with, I began to be mighty eaſy: But ſtill I muſt not reſt here; for as my Husband is not here to anſwer for himſelf, I think I am in Duty bound to anſwer in his ſtead, to the beſt of my Knowledge, as alſo to vindicate the Art I profeſs, that the World may not think they are impoſed upon; but, on the contrary, let them know my Care and Induſtry was always, and ſtill ſhall be, with the Bleſſing of God, to ſtudy the beſt and ſafeſt way for Cure, as far as my

Know-

Knowledge will admit. In the first Place, the Doctor must give me leave to say, I don't believe that any able Physician in *Paris* would give himself the Trouble to write to him, about a Person whose Skill and Judgment the Good of the Publick is so immediately concern'd, and so many able Physicians, Men of Parts, solid Sense, sound Judgment, and ready Wit, with fine Education; I say, it seems a little out of the way to me, to lay these by, and write to a Person who is, as I find by his own Writings, ignorant of the Cure of Ruptures. The Reasons are plain, he having said little of his own Experience, but altogether took what he has wrote from other Mens Works, which any old Woman could have done, as well as the Doctor, if she knew how to handle her Pen; but as for the Letter, let who will write it, as I have taken upon me to answer the Doctor fully, I shall take no-

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tice to anſwer that in as man
Paragraphs as I find neceſſary
and if the Gentleman is not ple
ſed with it, he muſt take Care ho
he writes to a Man void of U
derſtanding, as alſo learn to thin
twice before he makes free wit
a Perſon's Character once; an
I would adviſe him to take ſom
other Trade in Hand, or follo
his Practice, if he has any: But
always think when Perſons bu
themſelves ſo much about oth
Folks, they do want Buſineſs f
themſelves. Obſerve, in *Page*
he only allows of Cures in ſom
Sorts of Ruptures, in Perſons u
der twenty five Years of Ag
whereas the happy Performers n
gard no Difference of Age, Sex,
Conſtitution. For anſwer, I de
that; for unleſs my Husband h
entirely alter'd his Method, whi
I believe he has not, both he a
I always conſult thoſe Thin
firſt, as being very material
the Cure; and when we find
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theſe agree, then we proceed to go on with the Cure: But on the contrary we never meddle, except to give ſuch Medicines, or uſe Means to give Eaſe, or prevent Danger. I leave the Reader to judge if this is not a great Miſtake, in the firſt Place: As for the Perſon's Banter upon the Word *Secret*, I think it very proper; for I believe any Perſon that is ſo afflicted, is deſirous to have it kept ſecret, both for Modeſty and Decency, it being a Diſorder that happens in the moſt ſecret Parts of the Body. Obſerve, in *Page* 4. he gives his Opinion, all Secrets are Cheats. Here is a great Contraction between the Doctor and Him in this Point; for the Doctor ſays, he has took my Receipt to Pieces; and he both praiſes it, and quotes all the Ancients for the Uſe of it: Then how can it be a Cheat? But now I think proper to give the Gentleman that wrote the Letter a Caution, that when he writes, it

ſhould

should be to a Person who won't expose his Letter, or else he ought to have a good Memory not to contradict what he writes. Observe, in *Page* 22. he charges my Husband with refusing to Cure in the Hospitals; as also making no Difference in his Medicines and Applications, between a Child and an old Person. For answer, I am sure that is a great Mistake; for I refer the Reader to my Receipt, and am well assur'd my Husband follows the same Method. I think it would be a very wrong Step in Him to Cure in their Hospitals without a Gratuity certain for it; which I believe they would not give, made him to refuse; not for want of Skill and Judgment to perform. Observe, *Page* 24. he says my Husband boasted of thirty Years Experience, and that the Honour or Infamy of *France* requires the Truth of this Matter to be manifested by the Doctor's Answer. In the first Place, my

Husband

ty Years Experience: 2*dly*, I think he would never make himſelf look ſo little as to ſpeak a Thing, that by only looking him in his Face, muſt give room to think he was guilty of a very great Miſtake. 'Tis pity that the Honour or Infamy of ſo fine a Country as *France* (which may be ſaid the only Country for Gentlemen to be finely educated in, and has ſo many bright Men, both in Learning and Knowledge) ſhould depend upon the Anſwer of an ignorant, empty, ſhatter-brain'd Perſon, who makes it his Buſineſs to vilify Perſons behind their Backs: Indeed, it is ſurprizing it ſhould! But let the Reader Judge whether the Letter is conſiſtent with Senſe and Reaſon.

# *An Answer to* Rober Houſtoun's *Letter wrote to the Phyſi cians in* Paris.

I Having perus'd the Do ctor's Letter, *Page* 2 where he begins thus *He highly commends th Gentlemen for his Concern, for th Diſcovery of Truth*; I think th beſt Confirmation he could giv the World, would be his puttin in practiſe to ſpeak it more tha he does, and then I ſhould believ he loves it, as he pretends; bu for a Man to write one Thing an practiſe another, is not agreeab in my Opinion: I ſhall refer t

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the Reader, whether it is consistent with Truth for a Man to scandalize and vilify a Person behind his Back, and who is in another Kingdom, for no Reason but refusing to communicate his Art of curing Ruptures to him; he looking upon the Doctor to be a perfect Rattle, was not willing to be concern'd with him. When my Husband was here, there was no Body could shew more Respect than the Doctor did, but then it was with a view of Interest to himself; for when he found there was no Money in the Case, and my Husband gone to *France*, and all his Hopes lost, and he mist getting into Sir *Thomas*'s Interest, then it was that Envy and Malice began to rage in his Breast: 'Tis a very poor Reason to be angry with a Person for! I always have observ'd, in my Time, that if two Gentlemen fight a Duel, and the one stab the other behind his Back, 'tis reckon'd a

very great Piece of Cowardice, a
well as very Treacherous: I think
'tis to be taken the same Way, t
rail against a Man that is in ano
ther Nation, and not here to an
swer for himself; but notwith
standing the Doctor's Prejudice
I will give him a word of Advice
which I am sure will please him
I would have him make Interest
with Doctor *Littlejohn*, and, i
may be, he may take him in Part
ner with him; for I understan
he is upon disposing of my Re
ceipt to the Admiralty, for th
good of his Majesty's Navy. A
for what he says of *John Shaw*
I believe it to be utterly false
having been well acquainted wit
him several Years, and have ha
the History of that Affair from hi
Mouth, which was quite differen
from what the Doctor says. Ob
serve, *Page* 49. the Doctor assure
the Gentleman, *'Tis with Relu
ctance he is forced to do what h
does.*

*does.* For anſwer, 'tis certain when we give our ſelves a Cuſtom of telling known Untruths, we ought to do it with Reluctancy: But now I challenge him to tell the Facts what they were: Can he bring one Inſtance, that any Perſon dy'd under my Husband's Hands, by his trying Practice, or laying Cauſticks, or making Inciſion on the Part, which the Doctor ſeems ſo very free with in his Quotations? But I would adviſe him to deſiſt in theſe Caſes, except he underſtood the Uſe of the deſecting Knife better, than he has in Times paſt. In the ſame Page, he ſays, *My Husband left* Edinburgh *without any Conſideration for his Receipt.* I refer that to Sir *T. R.* who beſt knows what he gave him. I don't think he will bely his Pocket: So this is a great Miſtake, I am ſure. As for what he ſays againſt Sir *T. R.* I ſhall not pretend to concern my

ſelf with, for two Reaſons; 1*ſt* he being here to anſwer the Par that relates to himſelf; and, 2*dly* being a Gentleman of Under ſtanding and ready Wit, is quali fy'd for ſuch Work, better than a weak Woman. Obſerve, *Page* 70 the Doctor expreſſes much *Sorrow for the preſent State of Phyſick, i affording but an indifferent Pro ſpect to the regular Sons of Art* Indeed, I believe he ſpeaks tha feelingly, Buſineſs being very ſlack with him; elſe he could not find Time to meddle in othe People's Affairs ſo much. I don't find that Sir *Hance Sloane*, Doctor *Mead*, Doctor *Douglas*, or any o our fine Phyſicians can find Time to write Books; and if they did they'd be ſuch as would be to the Service of the Publick, and not ful of Raillery and ill Reports on othe Perſons: They are Gentlemen, and above doing ſuch mean Things: Obſerve, *Page* 72. he ſays, *He can*

*boaſt*

*boaſt of nothing in his Anſwer to the Letter, but of the Sincerity of his weak Endeavours to place Truth in a proper Light.* For anſwer, A very pretty Fellow to undertake ſuch a Work! He ſhould firſt learn to ſpeak Truth himſelf, and then defend it: The greateſt Truth I have found him in yet, is in allowing his Endeavours to be weak; and indeed ſo they are, for I that am a weak Woman, would have been aſham'd to imploy my Time ſo badly. Having anſwer'd this ſorry Scrowl in as full a Manner as it needeth, I ſhall leave the Doctor for a while, and proceed to give my Sentiments on Ruptures, and then ſhall take another Turn with the Doctor; for I han't done with him yet; as he begun, I muſt finiſh: I would have thank'd him much more when he took my Receipt to Pieces, if he would have put it together again, without quoting the Ancient Authors,

thors, or giving me Trouble of doing it; for I take no pleasure in appearing in Print, judging my self no way fit for it; but a violent Disease must have a quick Remedy, and sometimes it must be very sharp. And the Doctor must blame himself if the Application is too sharp; he having shew'd me the way, I follow'd his Method as near as I could.



# *A full and plain Description of the different Kind of Ruptures, with their Causes and the Accidents that do attend that Disorder, as far as my Experience will admit of.*

IT is neither my Desire nor Inclination to swell up a large Volume of the Ancients Works, or of their Practice which they follow'd in their Time, I being sensible that any Person may furnish themselves with

with various Kinds of Hiſtories at any of our Bookſellers Shops, and may read them at their leaſure; but the Subject I now begin upon, is the different Kinds of Ruptures, their Cauſes, and the Accidents that Perſons are liable to, who labour under this Diſorder, which I have ſeen in my Time of Practice. I ſhall firſt endeavour to deſcribe the different Kinds, and after that their Cauſes and Accidents, in as full and plain a Manner as may ſuit the meaneſt Capacity to underſtand. There are three different Kind of Ruptures, that in my Opinion may properly be called ſo: The Word *Rupture* implies a Breach or Separation of the Parts that ought to be entire. Now, as the Belly is an entire Part of the Body, if any Accident happens, as by Falls, Leaping, Straining, Vomiting, hard Labour, violent Coughs, or any other Ways, and the Felm or Rim of the Belly is broke, it is then a Rupture. Now

there

as follows; firſt, I ſhall deſcribe that which is called *Herniæ*, which is a Breach in the lower Part of the Belly, and occaſions the Gut to fall down into the *Scrotum*. Now what I take to be dangerous in this Rupture is, when the Breach happens to be very ſmall, if the Gut by any Strain or violent Motion ſhould fall down, and the Patient have a violent Fit of the Cholick, and the Gut fill with Wind, which ſwells ſo large that it won't return, the Breach being ſmall, then often this Caſe proves dangerous; for commonly violent Vomitings enſue, and the Gut being forced out of its Place, many Times there is no Paſſage for the Excrement, but often comes out at the Mouth; and not only ſo, but Inflamations and Mortifications enſue; for the Gut being ſo long detain'd from its natural Place or Situation, the Wind ſwells it, and by that Means the Parts round the Breach

are

Paſſage for the Excrement, but that being retain'd there, it grows hard and dry, and can't paſs backward nor forward, but ſtill remains in that Part of the Gut that is out of its Place, and a Mortification enſues, which occaſions ſudden Death. Now on the contrary, if the Perſon is of a good Conſtitution, and not ſubject to the Cholick, or Loathings of the Stomach, and wears a proper Bandage, and the Breach be large, ſo as the Gut to paſs backward, or forward; in this caſe, Perſons may have a Rupture many Years and not be troubled with theſe dangerous Accidents. But for Example, I have been called to a Patient in this dangerous Caſe, as I have been ſpeaking of, and when I have uſed what Means I thought proper, I have ſeen the Excrement come away in dry hard Lumps; but not till I reduce the Gut to its proper Place; as alſo when

that

that Part is dilected of a dead Body, 'tis often found in the Gut ſo; which makes me of the Opinion, when the Excrement is retain'd for a long Space, 'tis the main Occaſion of a Mortification. *Secondly*, I ſhall deſcribe the *Hydrocele*, or water Rupture: This Kind generally happens where the Perſon is of an ill Habit of Body, and they get abuſe in the *Scrotum*, the Veſſels being hurt, as well as weaken'd, by which Means the Blood, as well as the animal Spirits, is by the Bruiſe and bad Habit of Body turn'd into water, diſtils by Degrees down into the *Scrotum*, and fills it; which makes the Patient ſo uneaſy, that he is forced to have it let out once a Year, or more; and many Times theſe Ruptures are accompany'd with Dropſies in the Belly; and when ſo, are very difficult to be cur'd for theſe Reaſons: *Firſt*, Obſerve the Veſſels are very much weaken'd by the Bruiſe and Weight

of Water, which continually prefs
on them, which cauſes a Laxation
and many Times an Inflammation
and if the Humour that flow
from the Belly to the *Scrotum* b
hot, acid, and ſharp, then the Te
ſticles are in danger of Mortifi
cation, if not timely prevented
for they being drowned in tha
hot ſharp Humour, and being ve
ry tender, upon the taking of an
Cold, cauſes a Swelling and Inflam
mation, which mortifies, and the
preſent Death enſues: *Secondly*, O
the contrary, if a Perſon by a Bruiſ
get a watry Rupture, and the
have no Dropſy, but a good Ha
bit of Body, they may be cur'
*Thirdly*, The *Omentum*, or Cau
falling down: It is my Opinion
this Rupture is occaſion'd by lif
ing heavy Loads, and Colds; fo
by ſo doing the Belly is very muc
ſtrain'd, and if a Cold enſue, the
that Part of the Belly which wa
hurt by the Load commonly ſwell
but is not broke, only puffs ou
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and by its long Continuance causes the Caul to ſtretch, which is a fatty Subſtance and very ſlippery, ſo that that Part near the Swelling being very much ſtretch'd, ſlips down between the Felm and the Out-skin or Coat of the Belly. I can't ſay this Kind is ſo dangerous as the reſt, neither is the Patient ſubject to Accidents as in the other, but the Method of Cure I look upon more difficult than that of the other Kinds. Now as for the other Kinds of Ruptures, that is, Fleſhy Ruptures, Wind Ruptures, Ruptures, of the Liver, and Navel Ruptures, which many ſay there are of all theſe Kinds; but I am of a contrary Opinion, for I allow of none but the three Kinds that I have deſcrib'd: 'Tis certain that ſome have a fleſhy Subſtance grows in the *Scrotum*, or near thoſe Parts, which I think may properly be called a Tumour, or Excreſſence, or an Adheſion of the Parts: Alſo the Liver by be-

ing swell'd, or disordered may be displac'd, and occasion a puffing out in the Stomach: As for Wind all Persons are troubled with it that have any Sort of Rupture For the Navel, that is the Gut only in another Part of the Belly than what I did describe before Now all these Disorders I am very well acquainted with, I having frequently met with them in my Practice, and sometimes have helped them, which I will mention in their proper Place; but now shall proceed to the proper Bandages to be used in Ruptures. The Bandage I use is made of thin Flannel tore the long Way, to prevent it stretching too much, so tied round the Waste with a double Knot, and that plac'd on the Part where the Breach is; then I bring the End of the Flannel under the Thigh, and tucking it in behind, pin it. I find this the best for keeping up the Gut in a Groin-Rupture, as also very warm and nourishing to the

Part

Part. As for the Navel, I uſe what we call a Belt-Truſs, a Plate of Tin very ſoftly quilted, and a narrow Stripe of Fuſtian or Leather to come round the Waſte, and faſten it to the Pad, which keeps the Part warm and eaſy. As for all Sorts of Steel Truſſes, or Iron, I am utterly againſt them; for inſtead of helping the Part, it extreamly weakens it, and they cauſe many a Rupture which would never have been; for 'tis very common for Women, if their Children are troubled with Wind, or take Cold, which may ſwell the Parts, being very tender, to think it is a Rupture, and put on a Steel Truſs, which preſſes on the Part ſo much, that it often cauſes a Breach that would not have happen'd, if they had apply'd to the Child ſomething to carry off the Wind, a ſtrengthening Plaiſter, and a ſoft Flannel Bandage to confirm the weak Part. Other Truſſes are ſo ſillily contriv'd, that

they don't keep the Rupture up; the Patient may as well wear nothing in a manner; for I think, I have uſed moſt Sort of Truſſes, but never found any anſwer like the Flannel Bandage, which I never ſaw uſed in this City but by myſelf, or thoſe I ſhew'd it to. As for what is called rowling of Children, I can no way approve of it, I having cur'd ſeveral myſelf that has been rowl'd for ſeveral Years, and were never the better for it when they were brought to me: And ſo I may ſay of the Truſſes; I have cur'd ſeveral grown Perſons beſides Children, that has wore Truſſes ſeveral Years, and were not any better by it. Now I having ſaid what I think is proper as to Bandages, I ſhall proceed to put my Receipt together again, which our Famous Phyſician thought fit to take aſunder, or rather pull it to Pieces: As for the Powder, which he ſays is ſo common in Uſe, that not only the

Ancients

Ancients uſed it in abundance of Caſes beſides Ruptures, but every old Woman, Nurſe, or Gardener, and all common People in general do underſtand the Uſes of it. Why then if ſo, I very much admire they did not put it more in Practice than they have in this great City. How comes ſo many Truſs-Makers to live ſo well, and ſo many Women that roll Children, which give no Sort of Medicine? Theſe if they knew it, would certainly uſe it. There are many Hundreds of theſe Sort of People who live in this Place, beſides a vaſt Number of Surgeons and Apothecaries; I ſay, 'tis an Admiration the People are not cur'd! But what I moſt wonder at, is, that our Famous Doctor has not got a vaſt Eſtate by curing of Ruptures; for he ſeems to cure them, by his Book, with the greateſt Eaſe poſſible can be. I that have made it my whole Study this ſeveral Years, to find out the moſt eaſy, ſafeſt,

safe, and best Methods, can't say 'tis so easy to cure all Sort of Ruptures; for some Patients are of such an ill Habit of Body, that all the Medicines I could give them, would not regulate the Constitution: Others, again, by reason of their Age, their vital Spirits were not quick enough, nor their Nature warm nor strong, sufficient to help to knit and heal the Parts: for Nature must help along with the Means, or else the Cure can't be perform'd. Others, again, by their irregular Living, what in Diet, and what in Motion, shall when a Cure goes on as well as possible, undo all again, and make it as bad as if nothing had been done. But still I say, if my Receipt be follow'd exactly, and the Patient be of good Habit of Body, and will observe Orders, it will certainly cure to the Age of Thirty or Forty. 'Tis a safe and good Method, if rightly apply'd: But there are many Cautions which I shall

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down here, for the good of ſuch as ſhall think fit to make Uſe of this my Receipt. But I muſt firſt pay another Viſit to our Famous Doctor by way of Digreſſion. About a Year ago I was about taking a Journey out of Town for ſome Time, and for the good of ſeveral Families which had employ'd me, I left my Receipt with them, as alſo with the Phyſicians they did uſe to employ, that ſo it might be beneficial to them in my Abſence: But I very well remember, that ſeveral of thoſe Families deſired me, to let them have ſome of my Powders to keep by them, for fear of an Accident; which I did comply to, as long as they laſted; but when they were gone, I went to abundance of Druggiſts and Apothecaries Shops, but not one Dram of Powder could I get: They told me, it was a Powder they never had by them; and ſaid they had other Preparations of Comfrey, but not the Powder: Nay,

farther-

farthermore, I order'd those who wanted it, to send that Part of the Receipt to their Apothecary, to let them make it up for them, I having not Time myself, being busy to prepare for my Journey; and I do aver it for Truth, not one of them did prepare it right; and the Reason they gave was, it was a Medicine was never ask'd for, nor they never us'd. And farthermore, I challenge the Doctor to prepare some with me, and let the best and most famous Chymists, or Druggists, or Physicians give their Opinions; and I'll forfeit all my Judgment in the Cure, if they won't own his will not answer the End mine will; for as Demonstration is the End of Argument, so I desire to argue no farther than Facts will produce: Now I refer to the Reader whether Comfrey Powder is so common a Thing or whether the Doctor is so well acquainted with it as he pretends If he had but happen to say, that

every

every old Woman born a Gentry
in Milk, he had hit it; they all do
that: But saying the Powder, which
I verily believe he never saw till
in my Receipt, is a little odd. Now
I must send the Doctor another
Challenge, and then shall go on
with my Receipt: As to the Cau-
stick, he says that is common, as
well as the Powder. Well, let that
be as it will, let him take a Pati-
ent, and I another of the same
Age, and he use his Method of
Cure to his, and I use my Method
to mine; and which ever is safest,
soonest, and best perform'd, let
their Method be follow'd; for out
of such abundance of Receipts as
he has set down, sure he can't
miss; and I having but one,
'tis very great Odds! As for me,
I don't pretend to cut sixteen, nor
seven neither, in an Hour, nor ap-
ply Caustick two or three Times
over in one Place: I don't pretend
to have Skill, nor Courage enough
to Cut and Burn, Torment and
Hurry

many Times to Death. But I beſt like that gentle and eaſy Method that's ſafe, and attended with as little Pain or Danger as poſſible. To return to my Receipt: Where any Perſons are troubled with Piles, that take my Powders, I leave then out the Alloes, and put in as much Jalap, judging Alloes not proper for Piles. I have Reaſon to know, by my own Experience, that moſt grown Patients who have Ruptures, have the Piles; and uſe ſuch Means I find proper to cure them of the Piles, as well as the Rupture. Milk muſt not be taken while they are under Cure, for this Reaſon, it will neither agree with the Drops nor Powders: The acid Spirits of Salts are of a very hot ſharp Nature, and the Milk very clogging and flegmatick; ſo there is Danger, when theſe two meet, of coroding the Leaves of the Stomach. And as to the Powders, they being of a

glutinous

them are of Clotting when these meet, and stopping the Passage thro' the Guts: These Things I know by Experience, not by reading Authors. As for using Syrups of any Kind, I am utterly against, even of Comfrey itself; for they clog the Stomach, and spoil the Appetite from Food, or a good Digestion. As for the Mixture of abundance of Sorts of Things of any Kind together, I am against; for if my Receipt be look'd into, there is but few Sorts mix'd together. I often give my Powders in Mineral Waters, especially to Women, it being proper for them to take it in *Lambeth* Waters, which I approve of best, having try'd almost all others. When it happens that I take a Patient in hand to cure, that is of a hot Constitution, and the Rupture hard to reduce, and they subject to be very Costive, and have been several Days without Evacuation; in this

Powder, and then go with them to the *Bagnio* in three or four Hours after the Powder, or in a warm Bath, or the Sweating Room, reduce the Gut with my Hand, and lay three or four Glaſſes on near the Part where I deſign to lay on my Cauſtick, to draw off as much of the windy or bruiſed Blood as I think convenient; and by the Time all this is perform'd and my Patient at home, then ſhe has a Motion, it may be, two or three; and in twenty four Hours after, I lay on the Cauſtick, and ſo proceed till the Cure is well perform'd. The Reaſon I do this, is to empty the Gut of clotted Excrement, as alſo to reduce it to its proper Place, and to prevent Inflammation or Mortification while the Cure is perform'd. For if all Perſons that pretend to the Healing Art would take Care in Time, and not be too forward, there would not be ſo many

many Accidents happen as there does daily; for the Heat helps to reduce the Gut, as well as bring away the clotted Excrement. Now in the Case of Water Ruptures, which attend Women, as well as Men and little Boys, when I do begin the Cure, I first take great Care to give such Medicines as I judge most proper to prepare the Body with, and then to make Incision, so go on with the Cure. But the greatest Danger in this Case is Cold; for I always keep the Patient very warm all the while in Bed, from the Time I make Incision, till the Wound is quite heal'd; I only take them up while the Bed is made, and set them in an easy Chair with a large Blanket about them; for if any Cold happen, it is very dangerous, for the Part swells and causes an Inflammation, then mortifies, and sudden Death ensues. Not that ever I had this Accident happen, I bless God for it, but I have seen it by

others, to think fit to give the Caution. Now as to what many call a Fleshly Rupture, 'tis what I have met with often, and I never found any Cure for them; but if at any Time the Patient has either by Cold, or a Bruise in the Part, occasion'd the Swelling to grow harder, or be inflam'd, then I apply to it the Fomentation or Poltice mention'd in my Receipt, and that commonly takes the Inflammation and Hardness away. This is all I do in this Case. As making Incision on the Part, I never durst attempt to do it, for I look upon it to be a very dangerous Operation. As to that of the Navel, I use the same Method of that in the Groin, only this Caution That if the very Navel itself puff out, and I find the Breach there in this Case I never apply the Caustick, but only give Medicines inwardly, and apply a Plaister with a soft easy Bandage: This is to prevent Danger, but no Cure. A

Wing

Wind Rupture, as ſome call it, I do the ſame Way; and by degrees, the Wind is carried off, and the Part ſtrengthens, ſo no Rupture enſues. It would be endleſs for me to ſet down all the Receipts and Methods, that in my Time of Practice I have uſed, I having always made it my Study to endeavour to find out the ſpeedieſt, ſafeſt, and beſt Methods of Cure, or Help for my Patients. And after all, I do inſiſt upon it, that I found nothing anſwer like the Receipt that I have given out; for where I have apply'd it, I think I may ſay, it rarely ever fails; but yet I don't pretend to be infallible, for I have ſet down ſeveral Cautions to be uſed, and ſeveral Caſes that can't be help'd; and as to the Cauſtick, it ought to be managed with all the Care poſſible. There may be far better Heads, and ſounder Judgments, both in Surgery and Diſſection then mine, that may not underſtand

this Cure as well as I; and the Reaſon is, I wholly make it my Study, and apply myſelf to this Cure, and no other. I have had a pretty large Practice, and many Years Experience, and have ſeen more than many Surgeons in this Affair. I ſee the daily Miſtakes that are committed by Ignorance in ſome, and Raſhneſs in others, on ſeveral Patients that comes to me for Help: If it were ſo that People would ſuffer themſelves to be expoſed, I could convince the World that I am in the Right: But the Diſadvantage lies here; Our Patients will not be expoſed, ſo I may ſay, I have the worſt Opportunity in the World to ſhew my Skill; but however, I think fit to make a Propoſal: That whereas our Famous Phyſician cures Ruptures (in his Book) ſo eaſily, has caſt many Aſperſions upon my Husband, and thoſe whom he Taught, as he is not in this Kingdom to ſpeak for himſelf, I do in his

ſtead

ſtead make this Propoſal; Let me take a Patient, and he another, and both begin at one Time with the Cure, and when they are well, let us be judged by the whole Colledge of Phyſicians which Cure is the beſt and ſafeſt, perform'd freeſt from Pain, and attended with the leaſt Danger, they being to ſee the Dreſſing every Time; and which ever they approve of, let them have the Praiſe: Nay, farthermore, let the Doctor uſe my Receipt, if he pleaſes, or any of his own, for Demonſtration that Practice muſt make perfect. Now if the Doctor don't accept of this, he muſt for ever hereafter be ſilent, and write no more Books concerning Quacks, and charging People unjuſtly in what he can't make out: Sure, if a poor ſilly weak Woman gives the Challenge, the Doctor cannot find any Difficulty in accepting it, it being a good Opportunity to exert his Skill, and convine the World his

Book is true; if otherwiſe, then let him beg Pardon for his Folly. Now I think I have entirely done with anſwering the Doctor, and I hope he will find Employment in his Practice for the Time to come, and let my Husband and his Secret alone. Now I ſhall proceed as to Ruptures a little farther, and alſo put my Receipt entirely together again, and explain every Branch of it, with the Preparation of the ſeveral Sorts of Medicines, after what Manner they ought to be done. I will firſt begin with the Powder, that being the firſt Medicine I give my Patient, when the Cure is begun: The Reaſon why I give four, five, ſix, or more Doſes of it, is firſt to diſcharge the Guts of Wind or Slime, or clotted Excrement, which may remain there. And when all that is diſcharg'd out of the Guts, then they reduce eaſy, and the Body being cool'd and cleans'd from the hot ſharp Humour that it was

trou-

troubled with them, I reduce the Gut, and put on my Flannel Bandage for three or four Days, to let the Gut have a Seat of keeping up, as well as the Bandage to fix right upon the Part; then I lay on my Cauſtick, as exact as poſſible I can upon the Breach, and the longer the Scar is before it comes off, 'tis the better, it being deeper; and when it is off, I touch it with the Silver Cauſtick to keep it deep: I never apply the Oil but once; for 'tis not ſafe; 'tis apt to cauſe the Parts to enflame, and put the Patient to great Pain, and many Times a Fever enſues. Now the Silver Cauſtick gives little Pain, it takes away the proud Fleſh, and helps to contract the Rings of the Muſcles, and being dreſs'd with the *Paracelſus* and *Oxycroceum*, the longer 'tis kept running the better, for the Cure is the ſurer, and the Parts ſtronger all round, as well as the Cicatrice very thick; and all the while the

to let the Patient take the Drops in the Morning in Claret, or *Spaw* Water, and the Powders at Night; for they are of a very healing Quality, as well as to cleanse the Guts, and carry off the Wind, for they heal inward, as the Cauſtick does outward; ſo with Care, and keeping the Patient quiet in Bed, the Cure is perform'd. But when the Part is heal'd, there muſt be a large Poltice of the Comfrey made up with the *Hungary* Water, as is directed in my Receipt, for to confirm the Parts, it being beyond *Adherniam* to ſtrengthen them. Now the Powder muſt be very carefully dry'd, neither too high dry'd, nor too low; for the one takes out the Subſtance, the other makes it unfit for Powder; it muſt be dry'd in Paper Bags before the Fire by degrees, and often ſhook, that it may neither clot, nor mould. There is great Art in managing the Root

from

rom firſt to laſt; as alſo the Rook's
Livers are very difficult to Pow-
er. The Cauſtick ought to be
ery nice too, for if the Oil is
ot extraordinary good and ſtrong,
t will not do, nor anſwer the End;
f it gets Air, it's ſpoiled for that
Uſe. The reaſon I give theſe Cauti-
ns, is to hinder any from commit-
ing Miſtakes in the Cure, and
hen, it may be, they may reflect
pon me, or the Receipt, and ſay it
vill not do; but I ſay if they take
Care it will do, and not fail in
Caſes that can be cur'd. Now
s to the Water Rupture, 'tis ma-
king the Inciſion large and keep-
ng the Wound open, 'till all the
Bladders and little Bags that con-
ain the water be diſcharged, 'tis
hat which hinders the Water re-
turning again; the Wound be-
ng kept open, and it being dreſs'd
vith drawing Things, occaſions
he Bladders to come away in
digeſted Matter, and applying
trengthening, healing, eſtringent
Things;

Things. By this Means the Veſſel
are contracted and tied, ſo as th
Water can never return. Beſides
what is given inwardly, is of a
healing ſtrengthening Nature, and
ſweetens the Blood, and regulate
the Conſtitution, and ill Habit o
Body, which the Patient labour'd
under before. I know very well
that moſt Surgeons make Inciſion
in the *Scrotum*, and let out the
water; but then it returns again
but after my Way of Cure it ne
ver Returns: But as I ſaid before
they muſt take an extraordinary
Care that the Patient takes no
Cold in the Cure, that being the
greateſt Danger that attends thi
Caſe. As to an Inflammation in th
Cure, I think there is no Dan
ger, provided the Body is wel
prepar'd, it rarely happens wit
me; but if it ſhould at any Time
look a little red or angry roun
the Wound, then in that Caſe
anoint the Part where the Redne
appears with Oil of Red Roſe
an

and that takes it away. [illegible]
to my Receipt, I think I have explained it, and ſaid what I do judge to be moſt needful, both as to the Methods of uſing it, as well as the Cautions to be taken notice of in it; as alſo the Preparation of the Medicines; only mind the Roots are to be taken up while the Sap and Virtue is in them, before they ſprout up green; and the Herbs and Flowers for the Fomentation are to be uſed dry, they being gather'd in their full Prime. Now having given a Deſcription of the ſeveral Kinds of Ruptures with their Cauſes, and the many Accidents that attend them, alſo the beſt and ſafeſt Remedies, with the Cautions that are moſt neceſſary in the Cure, or otherways, I hope they will prove effectual to thoſe who ſhall think fit to put them in Practice; and it is my ſincere Deſire, that ſuch as are diſorder'd that Way, may receive the full Benefit as is intended,

tended, and then the End is an-
ſwer'd for which the Book was
put forth, it being purely for the
Publick good of all ſuch Perſons
as are that Way afflicted, that ſo
People may not be deceived by
Perſons that are unskilful; as alſo
to let the World ſee how far my
Husband has been wrong'd and
accuſed by the Doctor. Now if
the Reader pleaſe to obſerve, *firſt*,
the Doctor renders my Husband
the moſt ignorant Perſon, and calls
him Quack, and every Thing that's
bad; and in the other Part of his
Book praiſes his Receipt ſo high,
that he makes it good almoſt for
every Thing, nay, beyond what-
ever I ſet forth. For now, how
this is to be made coherent, let
the impartial Reader judge, for I
muſt own, I can't find it out. We
find in all Ages, the Faſhions and
Cuſtoms are ſubject to alter, as to
Clothing, Diet, Furniture, and all
Houſhold Affairs; for what was
look'd upon genteel and handſome
formerly

formerly would be look'd upon prepoſterous now; ſo in the Practice of Phyſick and Surgery we certainly alter very much in our Age, to what the Ancients did in their Time; for if we read their Writings, and read the Writings that are put forth now, and do but compare them, we ſhall find a Difference; not that I ſhall take notice of this by way of leſſening their Works, for I honour and eſteem their Writings, and Memories both, as being Men of bright Parts and Learning; as alſo for their noble Works they left behind them, for the Publick good and Advantage of enſuing Generations; but ſhall take leave to mention ſome of their Receipts that I found in the Doctor's Book, and alſo give my Sentiments of them, as far as my weak Judgment will allow, with Submiſſion to the better Judgment of thoſe wiſe Heads, that this ſmall Treatiſe may be perus'd by: And if it

is a wrong Step in me to give my Opinion, I humbly beg Pardon for the Miſtake, and hope it will be imputed to my Weakneſs, and not Slight to them. Now I ſhall proceed to the Receipts.

*The Powder to expel Wind, in*
Page 124.

AS to this Powder, I can no way approve of it in the Caſe of Ruptures, for this Reaſon; I look upon the Ingredients to be very hot and dry, which is no way fit for Ruptures; but on the other Hand, ſhould be ſtrengthening, cooling Aſtringents, to cool the Body, and expel the Wind, and bring away; the Excrement; but this Powder being very hot, would heat the Body and dry the Excrement, and ſo detain it from coming away; not but 'tis a good Medicine for the Wind in other Caſes.

*The*

*The Gliſter for emptying the Gut, in order for reducing it, in* Page 126.

AS to this Gliſter, what I miſlike in it, is, the *Hiera Picra*, Oil of Cammomile, and Salt, the two firſt being too hot and the third too forcing. I allow of very few hot Things to be uſed, or taken inwardly in Caſe of Ruptures, nor too forcing.

*The Fomentation, in* Page 126.

WHat I miſlike in that, is, the Oil of Cammomile and white Lillies, and the uſing a Spunge; for I uſe no Oils, nor any greaſy Medicine to a Rupture, judging the Part too much lax'd already, ſo uſe Aſtringents; as alſo I like a Flannel to foment with better than a Spunge; for I have try'd both, and the Flannel keeps heat longer, and lies better on the Parts.

*The Astringent Fomentation, in* Page 127.

AS to the Comfrey in Fomentation, I look upon it little worth, I having try'd it all Ways: Vinegar and Galls are utterly wrong to be used in Ruptures; the first being too sharp, the second being of a Poisonous Quality. The consolidating Ointment I don't judge proper to be used in Ruptures; but in other Cases good.

*The Purging Decoction, in* Page 128.

IN the first Place, there being too many Sorts of Things in it; the next Place, the Sweets I don't like, as Dates and Sugar; as also the Comfrey made in a Decoction, for it will not answer like the Substance in the Case of the Ruptures.

*The*

*The Aſtringent Fomentation, in* Page 132.

I Can by no Means like it, for theſe Reaſons; firſt, there being too many Sorts; and next the Salt, Alom, Smith-Forge Water, Vinegar, are all improper in Ruptures, neither are they ſuitable to be mix'd with the Herbs, they being of a contrary Nature. I like beſt to mix but few Things together, and to have them moſtly of a Kind, that is, either all hot, or all cold, according as the Caſe requires, I having found it anſwer the End beſt.

*The Receipt in* Page 143.

TO put the Body in cold Water up to the Navel, is very ſurprizing to me! to think that a good Method to reduce the Gut, when on the contrary in all my Practice, I have ſtill found Heat the

the only Thing to help to reduce; but as I never did ſee it try'd, nor ſee the Experience of the Method, I can ſay nothing of it, neither ſhall I ever uſe it.

*The Receipt in* Page 144.

OF a Perſon being cur'd of a Rupture, by the Uſe of a cold Bath is ſtill more odd; for if that Method would do, how eaſy would it be for all Perſons ſo afflicted to be cur'd, it being little Charge, and eaſily perform'd; there would not be ſo many Thouſands labouring under this Diſorder as there is, if this would anſwer; ſo I think nothing of it.

*A Receipt in* Page 215.

HOW a Water Rupture, or Fleſhy Rupture can be cur'd with Oil of Sulphur is, what I cannot comprehend, for two Reaſons; Firſt, it being not practical to cure either

either of these Kind without Insicion; for how is it possible to take the Water out without Incision, as also to disperse a solid Piece of Flesh that grows to the Parts inwardly, by rubbing an Oil on the Outside: In my Opinion this will not answer.

*As to Caustick*s, Page 218.

THat it will burn the Skin and Flesh in an Hour, I do allow of, but still I say it is not fit to be used in a Rupture. For the Soap, nor Lime, are not of the same Kind or Quality with the Oil of Vitriol; it will not produce such an Escara as the Oil, I having try'd both; but still approve of it in other Cases, as Blisters: It raises a Blister very easy and well.

The

*The Receipt, as to Cauſticks, in* Page 225, 226, 227.

THE Body to be prepared before the Cauſtick be apply'd, is very proper, but no Bleeding, but by Way of Cupping, as I have preſcribed in my Receipt: A proper Diet is good to be obſerved: The Place mark'd with Ink is needleſs; for that Perſon that underſtands the Parts no better than by marking with Ink, or by defending the Part with a Plaiſter, ſhould never attempt to make uſe of the Cauſtick. As to the Time of its Performance, I never laid it on but it has perform'd in a few Minutes, and the Pain over, the Patient dreſs'd and eaſy; but as to repeating it more than once, I am utterly againſt, for if it will not do at once, it will never do, ſo that is a very great Miſtake: As to the Eſcara coming off, there is no need to do

do any thing to bring it off, for the longer it is on, the better. Now I think I may venture to say, I have answer'd the Doctor pretty fully, and I hope, have given a Satisfactory Account of my Practice and Experience, to those as shall think fit to peruse this small Treatise. Now having read the Doctor's Book all out, I find at the latter End of it a lose Sheet pin'd into the Book, relating to one *Littlejohn*, which very much surpriz'd me: I being acquainted with him for some Years past, did not expect such Treatment from his Hand, for Reasons best known to himself: For had any Person else have used my Husband, or me ill, I should have expected he would used all the Means possible to hinder it, far less to be the Person himself. But what shall I say? There is a vulgar Expression used by People, That the World is made up with Knavery, and he is a Fool which han't a Hand in it: It

may

may be, the Doctor was loth to be reckon'd a Fool, but I ſhall take leave to tell the Doctor, he took an ill Courſe to be made wiſe; ſo ſhall take no more notice at this Time, any farther than to ſay, When I made a Preſent of my Receipt, it was not with the Deſign of making great Eſtates for Men immediately; but it was freely to be uſed for the good of the Publick, and no Sale to be made of it: For as I am the firſt Perſon that practice it in this City, ſure I was the propereſt to make Advantage of it. Now as I thought fit to make a Preſent of it to ſome Eminent Phyſicians, to diſpoſe of as they ſhould think proper, I am ſure they never intended that any ſhould ſell it as their own Works; but for them to put it in Practice, as to their Patients when occaſion ſhould offer. I well know this was the Deſign of the Phyſicians, for two Reaſons: *Firſt*, They knew it was mine. And, *Secondly*,

*ly*, They are Gentlemen of Honour, Honesty, and Generosity, and are continually doing good to the Publick every Day: So I am sure, they can't be pleased with the Doctor for offering to Sell what was put into his Hand to do good with, and which they knew did not belong to him; and altho' I don't think it proper to enlarge upon the Subject here, I shall let the Doctor know my Resentments at a convenient Time. And as for the Receipt, to be practised for the good of his Majesty's Navy, I am not in the least against it; I am so far from that, I think it very proper some of the Surgeons should see the Practice that belong to the Navy, that so they may be capable to help those that are afflicted that Way. Now I think it is the greatest Imposition upon his Majesty that can be, to offer to sell a Receipt, that his Majesty out of his Generosity and Goodness has so liberally given a

Reward for already; ſo there is no need of employing any one in that Affair but Sir *Thomas*, who to be ſure is more capable then a Perſon who is an utter Stranger to the Practice; and farther, to let the World ſee I am willing to ſerve his Majeſty, I would very gladly make an Offer myſelf of ſhewing any of his Majeſty's Surgeons the Practice. But as Sir *Thomas* is here, I would by no Means meddle in this Affair, it belonging to him by Right. Altho' if I had, I ſhould do it free, not with any View of Intereſt. Now I will leave the World to judge if this is Uſage fit to give Perſons, who never gave the leaſt Occaſion of Offence any manner of Way, and eſpecially by two Perſons who always expreſs'd ſo much Friendſhip as they both did to my Husband and me. As for Doctor *Littlejohn*, he muſt either think I was dead, or if living, I being a Woman, was a

poor

poor, ſtupid, ſilly Fool, that had neither Courage nor Senſe to reſent ſo baſe a Crime; but I will let him know, that let me be as weak as may be in other Affairs, yet I'll find a Way to do myſelf Juſtice, and diſappoint him of his Deſign; and if he is reſolved to get an Eſtate in a Hurry out of other Men's Works, he muſt try ſome other Way; for I do ſay, he ſhall not make one out of mine, while I am alive, as ſoft a Fool as he takes me to be; and farthermore, I would ſcorn to do ſuch an ungenerous Action by any Perſon, let my Streights have been never ſo great.

To conclude: Moſt humble Thanks ought here to be given to thoſe two candid Gentlemen Dr. *Mead* and Dr. *Freind*, for the Honour they did the Receipt, in declaring their Approbation of it, when it was brought to the

Ad-

Admiralty to be Sold; which is heartily done by me, who alone has the sole Right to make this most grateful Aknowledgement.

*FINIS.*

